

# Low-mass vector-meson production at forward rapidity in $p+p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 200$ GeV

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The PHENIX experiment at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider has measured low mass vector meson,  $\omega$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\phi$ , production through the dimuon decay channel at forward rapidity ( $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ ) in  $p+p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV. The differential cross sections for these mesons are measured as a function of both  $p_T$  and rapidity. We also report the integrated differential cross sections over  $1 < p_T < 7$  GeV/c and  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ :  $d\sigma/dy(\omega + \rho \rightarrow \mu\mu) = 80 \pm 6$  (stat)  $\pm 12$  (syst) nb and  $d\sigma/dy(\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu) = 27 \pm 3$  (stat)  $\pm 4$  (syst) nb. These results are compared with midrapidity measurements and calculations.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Low-mass vector meson (LVM) production in  $p+p$  collisions is an important tool to study quantum chromodynamics (QCD), providing data to tune phenomenological soft QCD models and to compare to hard perturbative QCD calculations. Various experiments [1–6] have studied LVM at different colliding energies and in different kinematic regions.

In addition, LVM production in  $p+p$  collisions provides a reference for high-energy heavy-ion-collision measurements. LVM studies provide key information on the hot and dense state of the strongly interacting matter produced in such collisions. Among them, strangeness enhancement [7], a phenomenon associated with soft particles in bulk matter, can be accessed through the measurements of  $\phi$ -meson production [8–13] and the  $\phi/(\rho + \omega)$  ratio. The measurement of the  $\rho$  spectral function can

be used to reveal in-medium modifications of the hadron properties close to the QCD phase boundary linked to chiral symmetry restoration [14–16]. However, measuring the  $\rho$  spectral function in the two-muon channel requires better mass resolution than is provided by the muon spectrometers of the PHENIX experiment at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider.

Having two muon spectrometers covering the rapidity range  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ , PHENIX is able to study vector-meson production via the dimuon decay channel. Because there is no similar measurement in this kinematic regime at this energy, the forward rapidity measurements are a valuable addition to the database and are complementary to previously published midrapidity results [1, 2]. We report the differential cross section as a function of  $p_T$  and rapidity of  $(\omega + \rho)$  and  $\phi$  mesons for  $1 < p_T < 7$  GeV/c and  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ . Results presented in this paper are based on the data sample collected in 2009 using the PHENIX muon spectrometers in  $p+p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV. The sampled luminosity of the data used in this analysis corresponds to  $14.1 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ .

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## II. EXPERIMENT

The PHENIX apparatus is described in detail in [17]. This analysis uses the dimuon decay channel of the low mass vector mesons. The detectors relevant for reconstruction and triggering are the two muon spectrometers [18] and the two beam-beam counters (BBCs) in the forward and backward rapidities.

The muon spectrometers, located behind an absorber composed of 19 cm copper and 60 cm iron, include the muon tracker (MuTr), which is in a radial magnetic field with an integrated bending power of 0.8 Tesla-meter, followed by the muon identifier (MuID). The muon spectrometers cover the range  $1.2 < |\eta| < 2.2$  over the full azimuth. The MuTr comprises three sets of cathode strip chambers while the MuID comprises five planes of Iarocci tubes interleaved with steel absorber plates. The composite momentum resolution,  $\delta p/p$ , of particles in the analyzed momentum range is about 5% independent of momentum and dominated by multiple scattering, and the LVM mass resolution is  $85 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ . Muon candidates are identified by reconstructed tracks in the MuTr matched to MuID tracks that penetrate through to the last MuID plane. The minimum momentum of a muon to reach the last MuID plane is  $\sim 2 \text{ GeV}/c$ .

Beam-beam counters (BBC), consisting of two arrays of 64 Čerenkov counters covering the pseudorapidity range  $3.1 < |\eta| < 3.9$ , were used to measure the collision vertex along the beam axis ( $z_{\text{vtx}}$ ) with 2-cm resolution in addition to providing a minimum-bias trigger.

## III. DATA ANALYSIS

The data set for this analysis was recorded in 2009 using a minimum-bias trigger that required at least one hit in each of the BBCs. Additionally, the MuID Level-1 dimuon trigger was used which required that at least two tracks penetrate through the MuID to its last layer.

A set of quality assurance cuts is applied to the data to select good muon candidates and improve the signal to background ratio. The BBC collision  $z$  vertex is required to be within  $\pm 30 \text{ cm}$  of the center of the interaction region along the beam direction. The MuTr tracks are matched to the MuID tracks at the first MuID layer in both position and angle. In addition, the track trajectory is required to have at least 8 of 10 possible hits in the MuID.

The invariant mass distribution is formed by combining muon candidate tracks of opposite charge. In addition to low mass vector mesons, the invariant mass spectra contains uncorrelated and correlated backgrounds. The uncorrelated backgrounds arise from random combinatoric associations of unrelated muons candidates while the correlated backgrounds arise from open charm decay (e.g.,  $D\bar{D}$  where both decay semileptonically to muons), open bottom decay,  $\eta$  and  $\omega$  Dalitz decays and the Drell-Yan process.

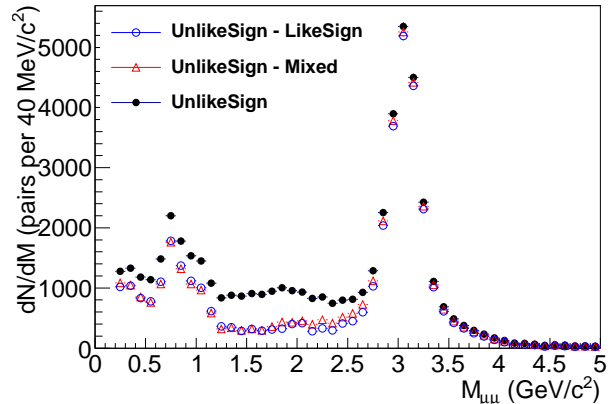


FIG. 1: (color online) The unlike-sign dimuon invariant mass spectrum before background subtraction (solid black points), after subtracting mixed events background (empty red triangles) and after subtracting like-sign background (empty blue circles).

Traditionally, the combinatorial background is estimated and subtracted by two methods. The first method uses the mass spectra of the like-sign pairs that are reconstructed within the same event. The other forms unlike-sign and like-sign pairs from different events and is often referred to as the “mixed-event method.” In the like-sign method, the like-sign pairs are expected to originate from combinatorial processes; in addition there can be correlated pairs within a single event [19]. In the case of the mixed event method, unlike-sign pairs are formed from tracks from different events which provides purely combinatorial pairs [19, 20]. The results of using these two methods are shown in Fig. 1.

It is clear from Fig. 1 that the two methods are not able to reproduce the background in the low mass region. Hence, we introduce a new data driven technique here.

The background below  $1.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  is dominated by

1.  $K/\pi \rightarrow \mu$  decays that occur before reaching the absorber
2. punch-through hadrons with high  $p_T$  that are misidentified as muons and
3. muons that result from decay in the muon tracker volume.

A  $\chi^2$  statistic is calculated from a simultaneous fit of the two muon tracks with a common event determined by the BBC. Tracks due to the backgrounds listed above produce a broader  $\chi^2$  distribution than that of true muon tracks, and this difference can be used to discriminate statistically between foregrounds and backgrounds. We classify pairs with  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}} < 3.6$  as foreground pairs and those with  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}} > 3.6$  as background pairs. The value,  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx,cut}} = 3.6$ , was selected such that we retain as much of the signal as possible, while still allowing enough statistics in our background sample.

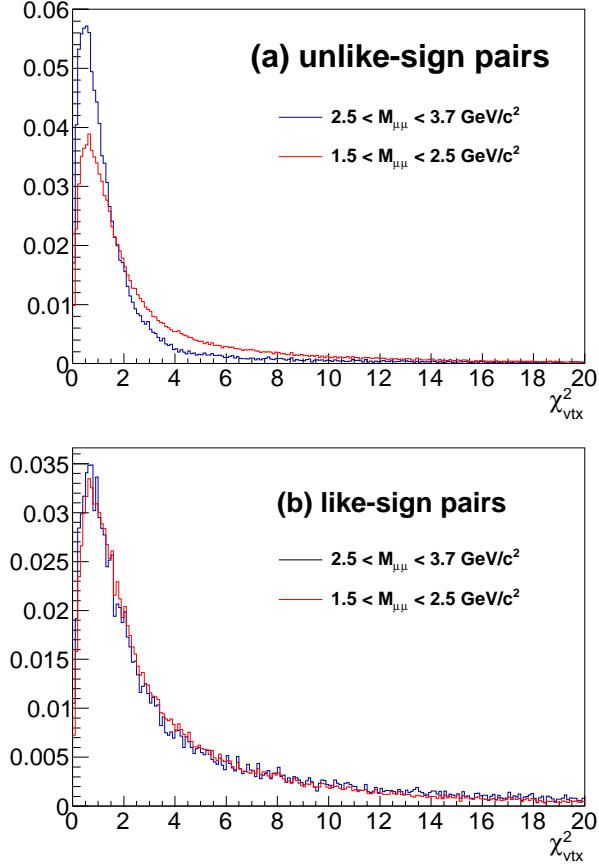


FIG. 2: (color online) The  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}}$  distributions for nonresonant mass region (red), and signal ( $J/\psi$ ) mass region (blue). The unlike-sign pairs are shown in (a) while the like-sign pairs are shown in (b). In each panel, the histograms are normalized to the total number of events.

Figure 2(a) shows the unlike-sign pairs  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}}$  distribution, which is narrower in the resonance region dominated by prompt dimuons (e.g, in the  $J/\psi$  region,  $2.5 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 3.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ), and wider in the nonresonant regions. On the other hand, the  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}}$  distribution for the like-sign pairs is the same in both mass regions. In addition, the unlike-sign  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}}$  distribution matches very well that of the like-sign in the nonresonant region. After selecting the foreground and background from the data, the background is normalized to the foreground by two normalization methods: The first method uses the unlike-sign pairs, where the ratio of the foreground to background spectra is fitted by a polynomial in the nonresonant region and the background spectra are then multiplied by the fit function. The other uses the ratio of like-sign pairs corresponding to  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}} < \chi^2_{\text{vtx,cut}}$  and  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}} > \chi^2_{\text{vtx,cut}}$  to determine the functional form of the shape of the background. This function is then normalized to match the unlike-sign distribution in the nonresonant regions,  $0.3 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 0.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  and  $1.5 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 2.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . Background estimates us-

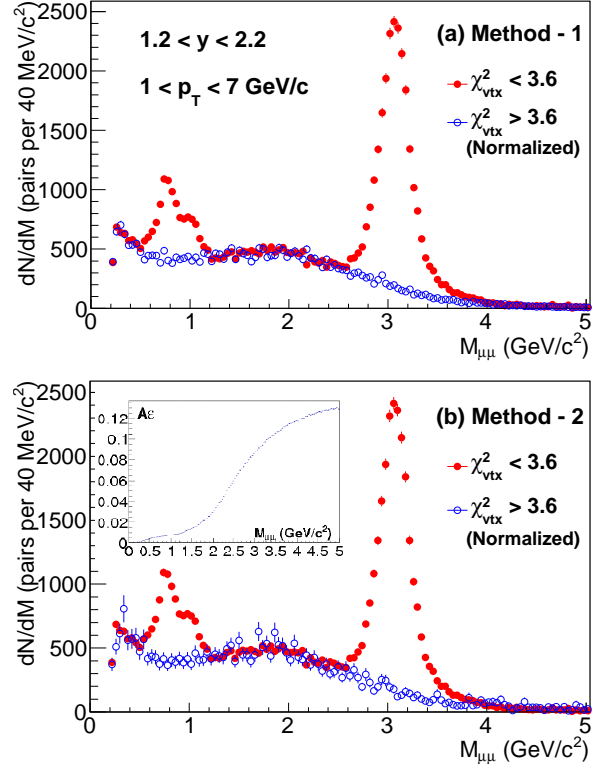


FIG. 3: (color online) The unlike-sign dimuon invariant mass spectrum (solid red points) and the background spectrum (empty blue circles) normalized using the first normalization method in (a) while using the second normalization method in (b). The insert in (b) shows the muon arms acceptance and reconstruction efficiency.

ing those two methods are shown in Fig. 3.

Both estimates of the background match the nonresonant region of the unlike-sign spectrum. However, because the second method includes a two-step normalization which introduces higher statistical fluctuations upon the background subtraction, the second method is only used for a cross check. The insert in Fig. 3(b) shows that the acceptance and reconstruction efficiency drops quickly at low mass which explains the higher  $J/\psi$  yield compared to the low mass vector mesons.

To ensure the robustness of the yield extraction, an additional yield extraction procedure is employed. The background is fitted with a polynomial and the result of the fit is added to signal fits which are then fitted to the dimuon invariant mass spectrum while constraining the added function with the background spectra fit parameters. The background normalization is a free parameter.

The unlike-sign dimuon spectra, with  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx}} < \chi^2_{\text{vtx,cut}}$ , in the region of interest ( $0 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ) have contributions from three mesons,  $\omega$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\phi$ . The  $\phi$  meson is partly resolved while  $\omega$  and  $\rho$  mesons are completely merged, hence the combined yield for  $\omega$  and  $\rho$  mesons was extracted. It was found that the recon-

structed mass spectra of the simulated  $\omega$  and  $\phi$  are fitted well by Gaussian distributions, while in the case of  $\rho$ , a Breit Wigner distribution matched the mass spectrum, which motivated using these distributions to fit the invariant mass spectra.

The background subtracted dimuon spectra in the low mass region,  $0.3 < M_{\mu^+\mu^-} < 2.5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , are fitted with two Gaussian distributions and a Breit Wigner distribution. The means and widths ( $\Gamma$  for Breit Wigner distribution) of the reconstructed  $\omega$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  were extracted using the PHENIX simulation chain and used as a first approximation in fitting the data. The masses and widths are free parameters in the fit to account for small detector effects which result in  $< 2\%$  variations with respect to the PDG values. In addition to these distributions, the dimuon spectra without background subtraction are fitted with a polynomial. It is important to note that the parameters from data and simulation fits converged to the same values within uncertainties without any systematic shifts.

Figure 4 shows an example of the different yield extraction methods. Figure 4(a) shows the unlike-sign dimuon invariant mass spectrum (solid black circles) and the background spectrum (empty blue circles), while (b) shows the same background spectrum fitted with a

fourth order polynomial. Figure 4(c) shows the unlike-sign dimuon invariant mass spectrum after subtracting the normalized background spectrum, shown in (b), fitted by two Gaussian distributions and a Breit Wigner distribution. As a cross check, a first order polynomial was added to the fit and the yields re-extracted and the resulting yields changed by less than 1%. Figure 4(d) shows the unlike-sign dimuon invariant mass spectrum without background subtraction fitted by two Gaussian distributions, a Breit Wigner distribution and a fourth order polynomial constrained from the fit results shown in Fig. 4(b). The yields extracted using the two methods illustrated in Fig. 4(c) and (d) gave consistent results, well within uncertainties.

The data are binned as a function of  $p_T$  over the range  $1 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c$  for the rapidities  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ . In addition, the data integrated over the  $p_T$  range  $1 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c$  were studied as a function of rapidity. The raw yields in this measurement were extracted using background subtraction as well as background fit methods, and in the case of the background fit, several polynomials of different orders were attempted. As an example, the invariant mass spectra are fitted by the function that includes a fourth order polynomial, as defined below,

$$f(x) = 0.58 \times N_\omega \times BW(x, M_{\omega+\rho}, \Gamma_\rho) + \frac{N_\omega}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_\omega} G(x, M_{\omega+\rho}, \sigma_\omega) + \frac{N_\phi}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_\phi} G(x, M_\phi, \sigma_\phi) + pol4 \quad (1)$$

where  $BW$  and  $G$  are a Breit-Wigner and a Gaussian functions, respectively, and  $pol4$  is a fourth order polynomial.  $N_\omega$  and  $N_\phi$  are the yields of  $\omega$  and  $\phi$ , and  $M_{\omega+\rho}$  and  $M_\phi$  are their mean values. The fit functions of  $\omega$  (Gaussian) and  $\rho$  (Breit Wigner) are constrained to have the same mean value and the ratio of their yields,  $N_\rho/N_\omega$  is set to 0.58. The factor 0.58 is the ratio of  $\rho$  and  $\omega$  cross sections,  $\sigma_\rho/\sigma_\omega = 1.15 \pm 0.15$  [21], multiplied by the ratio of their branching ratios [22]. The results of fitting the invariant mass spectra for different  $p_T$  bins at  $1.2 < y < 2.2$  are listed in Table I.

The extracted yields of  $\omega + \rho$  and  $\phi$  were consistent among all fits. Therefore, the yields and their uncertainties of the fit with the best  $\chi^2$  are used in the differential cross section calculations. The variations between the yields of the fit with the best  $\chi^2$  and those of the other fits are considered as systematic uncertainties on the yield extraction.

The acceptance and reconstruction efficiency ( $A\varepsilon_{\text{rec}}$ ) of the muon spectrometers, including the MuID trigger efficiency, is determined by individually running PYTHIA 6.421 (Default) [23] generated  $\omega$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\phi$  through a full GEANT simulation of the PHENIX detector. The simulated vertex distribution was tuned to match that of the

2009 data. The simulated events are reconstructed in the same manner as the data and the same cuts are applied as in the real data analysis.

The  $p_T$  and rapidity distributions of the generated events match the measured ones very well. The insert in Fig. 3 shows the  $A\varepsilon_{\text{rec}}$  as a function of invariant mass, while Fig. 5 shows the  $A\varepsilon_{\text{rec}}$  as a function of  $p_T$  and rapidity for  $\omega$ , as an example; the  $A\varepsilon_{\text{rec}}$  for  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  look very similar. The  $p_T$  dependent  $A\varepsilon_{\text{rec}}$  drops quickly at lower  $p_T$  which is the reason for limiting this study to  $p_T > 1 \text{ GeV}/c$ .

## IV. RESULTS

The differential cross section is evaluated according to the following relation:

$$BR \frac{d^2\sigma}{dydp_T} = \frac{1}{\Delta y \Delta p_T} \frac{N}{A\varepsilon_{\text{rec}} \varepsilon_{\text{BBC}}} \frac{\sigma_{\text{BBC}}}{N_{\text{MB}}^{\text{BBC}}} \quad (2)$$

where  $\sigma_{\text{BBC}}$  is the PHENIX BBC sampled cross section,  $23.0 \pm 2.2 \text{ mb}$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ , which is determined from the van der Meer scan technique [24].  $BR$  is the branching ratio to dimuons ( $BR(\omega \rightarrow \mu\mu) =$

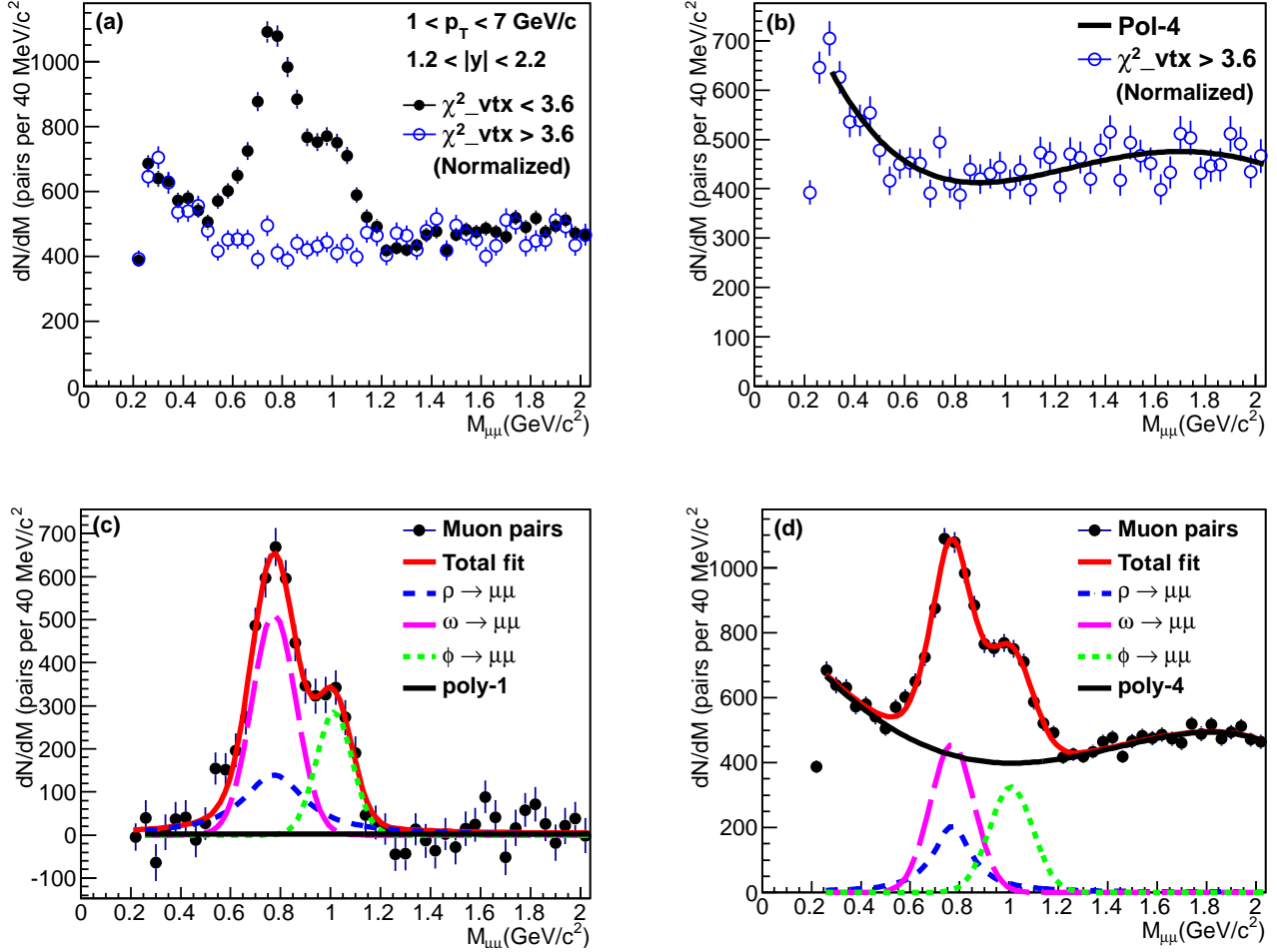


FIG. 4: (color online) Raw unlike-sign dimuon spectra (solid black circles) along with normalized background (empty blue circles) separated by  $\chi^2_{\text{vtx,cut}}$  in (a). Panel (b) shows the normalized background spectrum fitted with a fourth order polynomial. Panels (c) and (d) show the fitted spectra with (left) and without (right) background subtraction.

$(9.0 \pm 3.1) \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $BR(\rho \rightarrow \mu\mu) = (4.55 \pm 0.28) \times 10^{-5}$ , and  $BR(\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu) = (2.87 \pm 0.19) \times 10^{-4}$  [22].  $\epsilon_{\text{BBC}} = 0.795 \pm 0.02$ , is the BBC efficiency for hard scattering events [25].  $N_{\text{MB}}^{\text{BBC}}$  is the number of MB events, and  $N$  is the number of the observed mesons. In the  $p_T$  dependent study, the LVM yields were extracted for each arm separately and the weighted average of the two arms was used in the differential cross section calculations.  $A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$  is the acceptance and reconstruction efficiency.

The  $\omega$  and  $\rho$  yields are measured together and the  $p_T$  dependent and rapidity dependent differential cross sections are reported as  $BR(\omega \rightarrow \mu\mu) \times d^2\sigma/dydp_T(\omega) + BR(\rho \rightarrow \mu\mu) \times d^2\sigma/dydp_T(\rho)$  and  $BR(\omega \rightarrow \mu\mu) \times d\sigma/dy(\omega) + BR(\rho \rightarrow \mu\mu) \times d\sigma/dy(\rho)$ , respectively, to minimize the contribution of uncertainties from branching ratios and total cross sections needed to calculate the absolute  $(\omega + \rho)$  differential cross section. The  $A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$  for  $\omega + \rho$  is taken as the weighted average of the individual  $A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$ , where the averaging is done based on  $\omega$  and  $\rho$

branching ratios.

The systematic uncertainties associated with this measurement can be divided into three categories based upon the effect each source has on the measured results. All uncertainties are reported as standard deviations. Type-A : point-to-point uncorrelated uncertainties allow the data points to move independently with respect to one another and are added in quadrature with statistical uncertainties, and include a 3% signal extraction uncertainty. Type-B : point-to-point correlated uncertainties allow the data points to move coherently within the quoted range. These systematic uncertainties include a 4% uncertainty from MuID tube efficiency and 2% from MuTr overall efficiency. An 8% uncertainty on the yield is assigned to account for a 2% absolute momentum scale uncertainty, which was estimated by measuring the  $J/\psi$  mass. A 9% (7%) uncertainty is assigned to the  $-2.2 < y < -1.2$  ( $1.2 < y < 2.2$ ) rapidity due to the uncertainties in the  $A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$  determination method



TABLE I: The results of fitting the foreground spectrum by a function that includes two Gaussian distributions, a Breit Wigner distribution and a fourth order polynomial, over the mass range  $0.3 < M_{\mu\mu} < 2.0$  GeV/ $c^2$  for the listed  $p_T$  bins.

$p_T$ (GeV/ $c$ )	1.0 - 2.0	2.0 - 2.5	2.5 - 3.0	3.0 - 4.5	4.5 - 7.0
$N_\omega$	$(68 \pm 5) \times 10^1$	$(63 \pm 8) \times 10^1$	$(39 \pm 4) \times 10^1$	$(36 \pm 5) \times 10^1$	$(4.8 \pm 1.2) \times 10^1$
$M_{\omega+\rho}$ (GeV/ $c^2$ )	$(77 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(77 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(77 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(76 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(80 \pm 2) \times 10^{-2}$
$\Gamma_\rho$ (GeV/ $c^2$ )	$(18 \pm 4) \times 10^{-2}$	$(22 \pm 4) \times 10^{-2}$	$(22 \pm 2) \times 10^{-2}$	$(18 \pm 4) \times 10^{-2}$	$(19 \pm 2) \times 10^{-2}$
$\sigma_\omega$ (GeV/ $c^2$ )	$(8.8 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{-2}$	$(85 \pm 8) \times 10^{-3}$	$(8.8 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-2}$	$(8.1 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{-2}$	$(7.2 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{-2}$
$N_\phi$	$(39 \pm 8) \times 10^1$	$(53 \pm 6) \times 10^1$	$(32 \pm 4) \times 10^1$	$(28 \pm 3) \times 10^1$	$38 \pm 10$
$M_\phi$ (GeV/ $c^2$ )	$(100 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(99 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(100 \pm 1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(100 \pm 2) \times 10^{-2}$	$(106 \pm 6) \times 10^{-2}$
$\sigma_\phi$ (GeV/ $c^2$ )	$(7.5 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-2}$	$(8.8 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{-2}$	$(8.8 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-2}$	$(8.8 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-2}$	$(7.2 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-2}$
p0	$(20 \pm 4) \times 10^1$	$(5.9 \pm 3.8) \times 10^1$	$(13 \pm 3) \times 10^1$	$(9.5 \pm 2.8) \times 10^1$	$8.6 \pm 1.3$
p1	$(-3.8 \pm 2.0) \times 10^2$	$(3.0 \pm 1.8) \times 10^2$	$(-2.5 \pm 1.3) \times 10^2$	$(-1.8 \pm 1.3) \times 10^2$	$-15 \pm 2.2$
p2	$(6.2 \pm 3.1) \times 10^2$	$(-4.9 \pm 2.5) \times 10^2$	$(3.4 \pm 1.8) \times 10^2$	$(2.2 \pm 1.8) \times 10^2$	$39 \pm 1.5$
p3	$(-3.6 \pm 2.0) \times 10^2$	$(2.6 \pm 1.4) \times 10^2$	$(-2.1 \pm 1.0) \times 10^2$	$(-1.3 \pm 1.0) \times 10^2$	$-35 \pm 1$
p4	$(6.7 \pm 4.3) \times 10^1$	$(-4.7 \pm 2.9) \times 10^1$	$(4.6 \pm 2.1) \times 10^1$	$(2.6 \pm 2.1) \times 10^1$	$9.2 \pm 0.4$
$\chi^2/\text{ndf}$	43.2/33	28.1/33	24.7/33	29.2/33	39.7/33

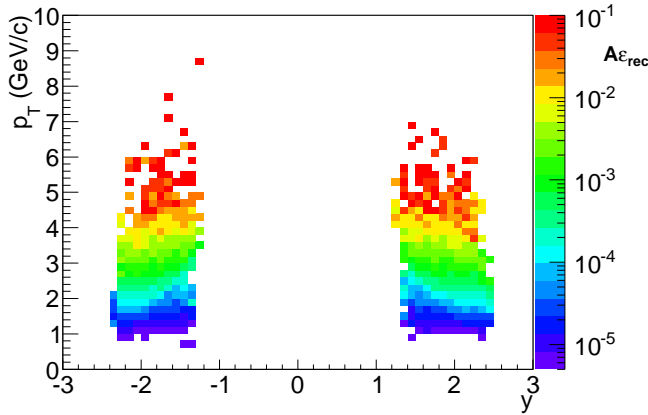


FIG. 5: (color online) The  $A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$  as a function of rapidity ( $x$ -axis) and  $p_T$  ( $y$ -axis) for  $\omega$ .

itself. The  $A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$  at the lowest  $p_T$  bin is small, as shown in Fig. 5, and sensitive to variations in the slope of the input  $p_T$  distribution which affects the differential cross section calculations at this  $p_T$  bin. To understand this effect, the  $p_T$ -dependent cross section is fitted by three commonly used fit functions (Hagedorn [26], Kaplan [27], and Tsallis [2]) over the  $p_T$  range,  $2 < p_T < 7$  GeV/ $c$ , and the fitted functions are extrapolated to lowest  $p_T$  bin,  $1 < p_T < 2$  GeV/ $c$ . The differences between the values extracted from these fits and the measured one at the lowest  $p_T$  bin is within 8%, hence an 8% systematic uncertainty is assigned to lowest  $p_T$  bin to account for these differences. For the integrated and rapidity dependent cross sections the 8% uncertainty is assigned to all data bins because the lowest  $p_T$  bin is dominant. Type-B systematic uncertainties are added in quadrature and are shown as shaded bands on the associated data points. Finally, an overall normalization uncertainty of 10% was

assigned for the BBC cross section and efficiency uncertainties which allows the data points to move together by a common multiplicative factor, and are labeled as type-C. These systematic uncertainties are listed in Table II.

TABLE II: Systematic uncertainties included in the invariant yield and differential cross section calculations, where S (N) is for the  $-2.2 < y < -1.2$  ( $1.2 < y < 2.2$ ) rapidity. As explained in the text, there is an 8% type-B systematic uncertainty due to small acceptance that impacts the low  $p_T$  region only which is not listed below.

Type	Origin	Value (S/N)
A	Signal extraction	3%
B	MuID efficiency	4%
B	MuTr efficiency	2%
B	$A\epsilon_{\text{rec}}$	9% / 7%
B	Absolute momentum scale	8%
Total	Quadratic sum of (B)	13% / 12%
C	BBC efficiency (Global)	10%

The open charm contribution to the signal is a possible source of systematic uncertainty. Even though the background subtracted dimuon spectrum in Fig. 4(c) shows no evidence of a remaining background, a Monte Carlo simulation was carried out to verify that the open charm contribution to the signal is negligible after background subtraction. A single particle PYTHIA simulation of open charm was generated and run through the PHENIX simulation chain. The charm differential cross section at forward rapidity,  $d\sigma_{c\bar{c}}/dy|_{y=1.6} = 0.243 \pm 0.013(\text{stat}) \pm 0.105(\text{data syst})^{+0.049}_{-0.087}(\text{PYTHIA syst})$  mb [28], is used with an inclusive branching ratio,  $BR(D \rightarrow \mu + X) = 0.176$  [22]. The simulated events were then reconstructed



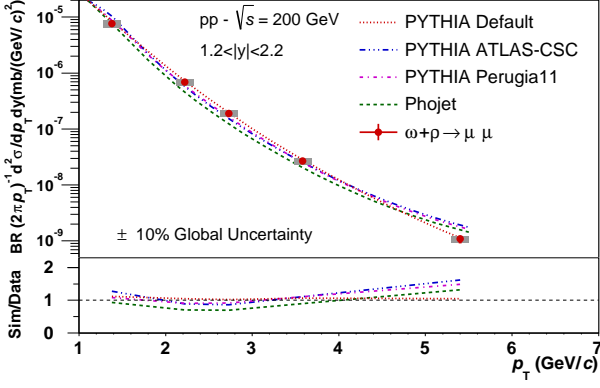


FIG. 6: (color online) (top)  $p_T$  dependent differential cross sections of  $\omega + \rho$  at rapidity,  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ . The error bars represent the statistical uncertainties, and the gray shaded band represents the quadratic sum of type-B systematic uncertainties. The data are compared with the PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC, default and PERUGIA-11 tunes and PHOJET. (bottom) Ratio between data and models.

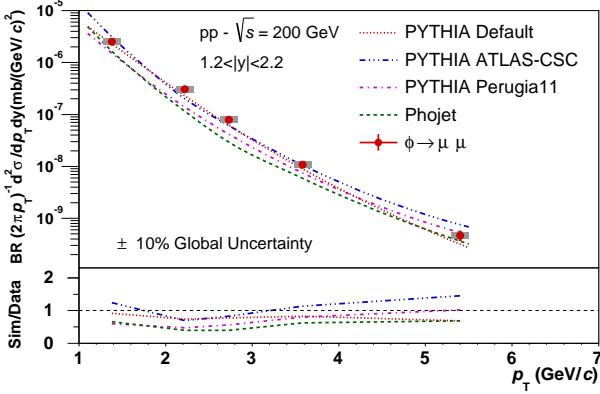


FIG. 7: (color online) (top)  $p_T$  dependent differential cross sections of  $\phi$  at rapidity,  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ . The error bars represent the statistical uncertainties, and the gray shaded band represents the quadratic sum of type-B systematic uncertainties. The data are compared with the PYTHIA (ATLAS-CSC, default and PERUGIA-11 tunes and PHOJET. (bottom) Ratio between data and models.

using identical code to that used in the real data analysis, and after applying all cuts used in the analysis, the surviving rate of open charm was negligible in comparison to the low mass vector meson yields. Additionally, similar study of the  $\eta$  and  $\omega$  Dalitz decays showed that they were negligible in comparison to the low mass vector meson yields.

The differential cross sections for  $\omega + \rho$  and  $\phi$  as a function of  $p_T$  are shown in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively, and listed in Table III. The appropriate  $p_T$  value where each point was plotted is chosen such that the fit function, a function selected to fit the  $p_T$  distribution, is equal to its mean value [29] where the results are listed in the first column in Table III. Figs. 6 and 7 also include some stan-

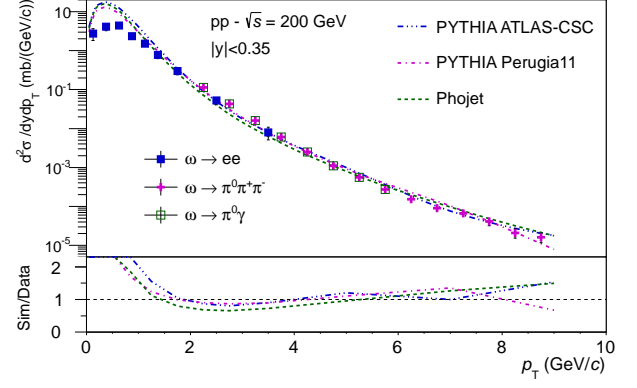


FIG. 8: (color online) (top)  $p_T$  dependent differential cross sections of  $\omega$  at rapidity,  $|y| < 0.35$  [2]. The data are compared with the PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC, default and PERUGIA-11 tunes and PHOJET. (bottom) Ratio between data and models.

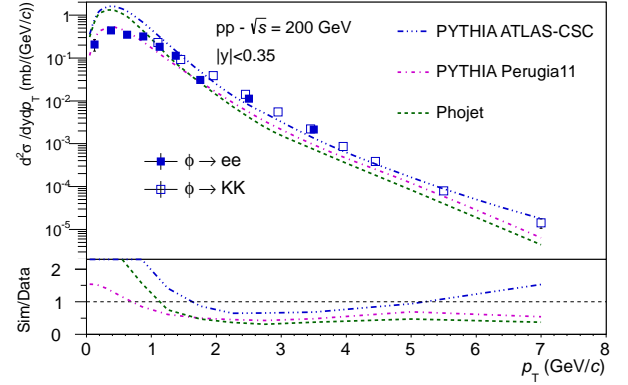


FIG. 9: (color online) (top)  $p_T$  dependent differential cross sections of  $\phi$  at rapidity,  $|y| < 0.35$  [2]. The data are compared with the PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC, default and PERUGIA-11 tunes and PHOJET. (bottom) Ratio between data and models.

dard tunes of PYTHIA (ATLAS-CSC [30], default [23] and PERUGIA-11 [31]) and PHOJET [32]. The bottom panels in Figs. 6 and 7 show the ratio between the measurement and the model predictions.

These model predictions were also tested against previously published midrapidity data [2] as shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC and PERUGIA-11 tunes, reproduce the differential cross section at both midrapidity and forward rapidity for  $\omega$  and  $\omega + \rho$ , respectively, while PHOJET under predicts the data in both cases. The PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC reproduces the  $\phi$  differential cross sections at forward rapidities. The PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC and PERUGIA-11 tunes and PHOJET fail to match the data below 1 GeV/c. Generally, PYTHIA and PHOJET seem to do better job reproducing  $\omega + \rho$  than  $\phi$ .

Figure 10 and Table IV show the differential cross section as a function of rapidity for  $\omega + \rho$  in (a) and  $\phi$  in (b), along with PYTHIA tunes (ATLAS-CSC, default, and

TABLE III: Differential cross sections in  $b/(\text{GeV}/c)$  and  $p_T$  in  $(\text{GeV}/c)$  of  $\omega + \rho$  and  $\phi$  at  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$  with statistical and type-A systematic uncertainties added in quadrature and type-B systematic uncertainties.

$p_T$ (GeV/c)	$\frac{BR}{2\pi p_T} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\omega+\rho \rightarrow \mu\mu}}{dy dp_T}$ (b / $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ )	$\frac{BR}{2\pi p_T} \frac{d^2\sigma_{\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu}}{dy dp_T}$ (b / $(\text{GeV}/c)^2$ )
1.38	$(8.41 \pm 0.67 \pm 1.26) \times 10^{-09}$	$(2.76 \pm 0.35 \pm 0.41) \times 10^{-09}$
2.17	$(7.19 \pm 0.71 \pm 0.93) \times 10^{-10}$	$(3.19 \pm 0.36 \pm 0.41) \times 10^{-10}$
2.65	$(1.95 \pm 0.19 \pm 0.25) \times 10^{-10}$	$(8.16 \pm 0.93 \pm 1.06) \times 10^{-11}$
3.58	$(2.68 \pm 0.29 \pm 0.35) \times 10^{-11}$	$(1.09 \pm 0.14 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-11}$
5.40	$(1.10 \pm 0.16 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-12}$	$(4.71 \pm 0.90 \pm 0.61) \times 10^{-13}$

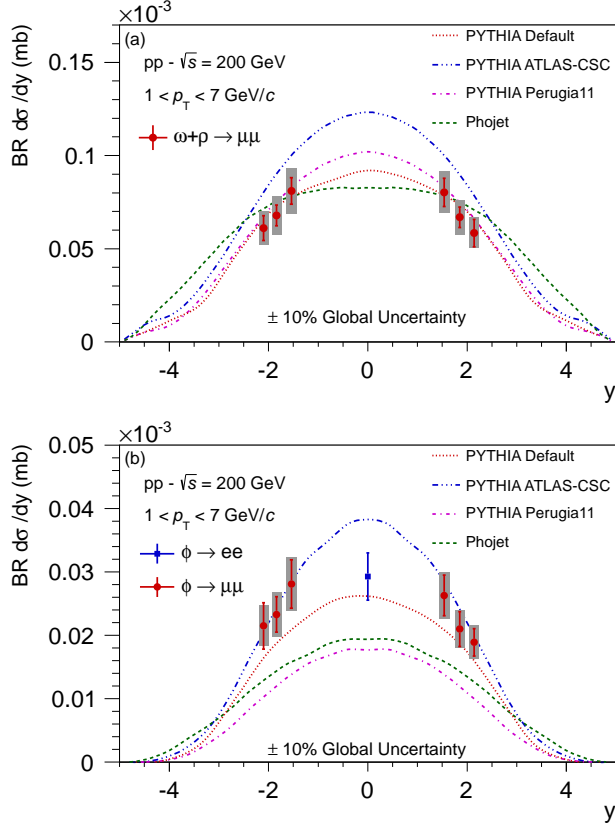


FIG. 10: (color online) Rapidity dependent differential cross section of  $\omega + \rho$  (a) and  $\phi$  (b) along with previous PHENIX results [2] summed over the  $p_T$  range,  $1 < p_T < 7$  GeV. The error bars represent the quadratic sum of the statistical uncertainties and type-A systematic uncertainties, and the gray shaded band represents the quadratic sum of type-B systematic uncertainties. The data are compared with the PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC and PERUGIA-11 tunes and PHOJET.

perugia-11) and PHOJET. It can be seen in Fig. 10 that default and sc perugia-11 tunes reproduce the  $\omega + \rho$  results, while the ATLAS-CSC tune matches the  $\phi$  forward rapidity results.

The acceptance at low  $p_T$  is very small to negligible in the low mass region which prevents us from extracting the differential cross sections,  $d\sigma/dy$ , summed over all

TABLE IV: Differential cross sections in  $b$  and rapidity of  $\omega + \rho$  and  $\phi$  at  $1 < p_T < 7$  GeV/c with statistical and type-A systematic uncertainties added in quadrature and type-B systematic uncertainties.

$y$	$BR \frac{d\sigma_{\omega+\rho \rightarrow \mu\mu}}{dy}$ (nb)	$BR \frac{d\sigma_{\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu}}{dy}$ (nb)
-2.10	$61.1 \pm 6.7 \pm 9.2$	$21.5 \pm 3.7 \pm 3.2$
-1.84	$67.9 \pm 5.6 \pm 10.2$	$23.3 \pm 2.8 \pm 3.5$
-1.54	$81.0 \pm 7.1 \pm 12.2$	$28.1 \pm 3.8 \pm 4.2$
1.54	$80.3 \pm 7.6 \pm 11.2$	$26.3 \pm 3.2 \pm 3.7$
1.85	$66.9 \pm 5.4 \pm 9.4$	$21.0 \pm 2.8 \pm 2.9$
2.14	$58.4 \pm 7.4 \pm 8.2$	$18.9 \pm 2.2 \pm 2.6$

TABLE V:  $N_\phi/(N_\omega + N_\rho)$  and  $p_T$  in (GeV/c) with statistical and type-A systematic uncertainties added in quadrature and type-B systematic uncertainties.

$p_T$ (GeV/c)	$N_\phi/(N_\omega + N_\rho)$
1.38	$0.33 \pm 0.04 \pm 0.03$
2.17	$0.44 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.04$
2.65	$0.43 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.04$
3.58	$0.40 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.04$
5.40	$0.45 \pm 0.09 \pm 0.04$

$p_T$  directly from the data. Instead, we report  $d\sigma/dy$  integrated over the measured  $p_T$  range,  $d\sigma/dy(\omega + \rho \rightarrow \mu\mu)(1 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c, 1.2 < |y| < 2.2) = 80 \pm 6$  (stat)  $\pm 12$  (syst) nb and  $d\sigma/dy(\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu)(1 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV}/c, 1.2 < |y| < 2.2) = 27 \pm 3$  (stat)  $\pm 4$  (syst) nb.

The ratio  $N_\phi/(N_\omega + N_\rho) = BR(\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu)\sigma_\phi/(BR(\omega \rightarrow \mu\mu)\sigma_\omega + BR(\rho \rightarrow \mu\mu)\sigma_\rho)$ , corrected for acceptance and efficiency, was determined for  $1 < p_T < 7$  GeV/c and  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ , giving  $0.390 \pm 0.021$  (stat)  $\pm 0.035$  (syst), as shown in Fig. 11 and listed in Table V. Systematic uncertainties including MuID and MuTr efficiencies, absolute momentum scale and BBC efficiency cancel out when taking the yield ratio.

Figure 11 also shows PYTHIA (ATLAS-CSC, default, and sc perugia-11 tunes) and PHOJET. The ATLAS-CSC tune reproduces the ratio while the other models underestimate it. The ALICE experiment also measured this

ratio in  $p+p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV in the dimuon rapidity region  $2.5 < y < 4$ . The reported value is  $0.416 \pm 0.032$  (stat)  $\pm 0.004$  (syst) [5] over the  $p_T$  range  $1 < p_T < 5$  which is consistent with our result.

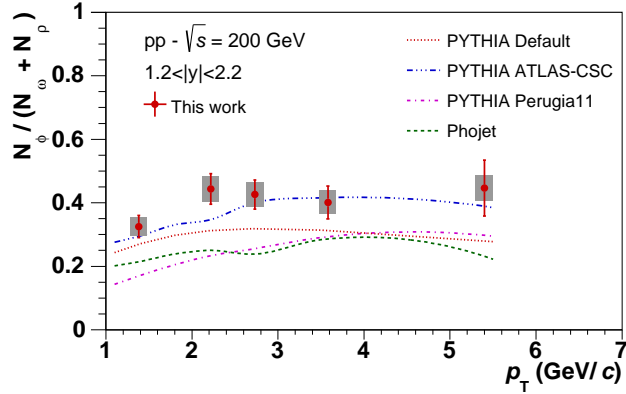


FIG. 11: (color online)  $N_\phi/(N_\omega + N_\rho)$  as a function of  $p_T$ . The error bars represent the quadratic sum of the statistical uncertainties and type-A systematic uncertainties, and the gray shaded band represents the quadratic sum of type-B systematic uncertainties.

## V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we studied the low mass vector meson,  $\omega$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\phi$ , production in  $p+p$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV for  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$  and  $1.0 < p_T < 7.0$  GeV/c, through the dimuon decay channel. We measured  $\omega + \rho$ , and  $\phi$  differential cross sections as a function of  $p_T$  as well as a function of rapidity.

The differential cross sections,  $d\sigma/dy$  of  $\omega + \rho$  and  $\phi$ , were evaluated over the measured  $p_T$  range,  $d\sigma/dy(\omega + \rho \rightarrow \mu\mu)(1 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV/c}, 1.2 < |y| < 2.2) = 80 \pm 6$  (stat)  $\pm 12$  (syst) nb and  $d\sigma/dy(\phi \rightarrow \mu\mu)(1 < p_T < 7 \text{ GeV/c}, 1.2 < |y| < 2.2) = 27 \pm 3$  (stat)  $\pm 4$  (syst) nb. The ratio  $N_\phi/(N_\omega + N_\rho)$ , at  $1 < p_T < 7$  GeV/c and  $1.2 < |y| < 2.2$ , was also determined, and is  $0.390 \pm 0.021$  (stat)  $\pm 0.035$  (syst), which is consistent with ALICE measurement at larger rapidity and higher energy. This agreement with the ALICE result at  $\sim 0.4$ , which is higher than PYTHIA default at  $\sim 0.3$ , suggests a higher  $g + g$  contribution to  $\phi$  production.

The data are compared to some commonly used

PYTHIA tunes and PHOJET. Overall, the PYTHIA ATLAS-CSC and default tunes describe forward rapidity data except for the  $\phi$  rapidity distribution and describe midrapidity data above 1 GeV/c. The PYTHIA PERUGIA-11 tune describes the  $\omega + \rho$  differential cross section while it underestimates the  $\phi$  differential cross section. Generally, all these event generators describe the shape of the LVM  $p_T$  distribution indicating that leading-order perturbative QCD-based event generators can describe  $p_T$  distribution.

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